

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /095 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

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R 192320Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
NOVEMBER 19, 1975:

Q. WHERE DOES THE UNITED STATES STAND IN REGARD TO AN
INFORMAL MIDDLE EAST MEETING?

A. AGAIN, THE SECRETARY WAS ASKED ABOUT THIS YESTERDAY,
AND IN FACT WAS ASKED ABOUT THIS QUESTION BY REPORTERS
FOLLOWING HIS MEETING, AND HE SAID WE WOULD HAVE SOME
THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS IN OUR REPLY TO THE SOVIET NOTE.

Q. WHEN IS THAT REPLY FORTHCOMING?

A. HE SAID IT WOULD BE SOON.

Q. IS THAT GOING TO BE HANDED OVER HERE OR IN MOSCOW?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHERE IT WILL BE DELIVERED.

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Q. WHERE DID WE GET THE NOTE -- HERE OR IN MOSCOW?

A. HERE.

Q. IS THAT WHAT HE MEANT WHEN HE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT
REPLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOVIET NOTE -- IN OTHER
WORDS, THAT HE WOULD HAVE HIS OWN APPROACH TO RESUMING
NEGOTIATIONS, CONTRARY TO WHAT THE SOVIETS WANT TO DO,

WHICH IS SIMPLY TO RESUME AT GENEVA?

A. THE SECRETARY WAS ASKED YESTERDAY BY A REPORTER: "MR. SECRETARY, ARE YOU PREPARED TO MOVE ON TO GENEVA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOVIET NOTE?" AND HIS ANSWER WAS, "NO, NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOVIET NOTE, BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO MOVE ON TO GENEVA AND WE WILL BE REPLYING TO THE SOVIET NOTE SOON WITH OUR PROPOSALS AS TO HOW THE CONFERENCE CAN BE RECONSTITUTED."

Q. WELL, IT'S DIFFICULT -- I HATE TO ASK YOU TO TRY TO INTERPRET HIS MIND, BECAUSE HE'S NOT BEING EXPLICIT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE MEANS WHEN HE SAYS " NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOVIET NOTE." YOU WOULDN'T CALL IT REJECTING IT, WOULD YOU?

A. HE OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT ACCEPT ALL ASPECTS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL -- QUITE OBVIOUSLY, NOT THE PART ABOUT THE PLO. I THINK THAT IS REASONABLY EXPLICIT.

Q. IS THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL SOME MONTHS AGO FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING OF NATIONS INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE STILL ALIVE?

A. YES, I THINK IT IS. IT HAS NOT BEEN REJECTED. WE REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON THE SUBJECT AND IT REMAINS ONE OF THE OPTIONS.

Q. WELL, WHAT I'M ASKING IS: WOULD THE SECRETARY PREFER TO SEE SUCH AN INFORMAL MEETING TAKE PLACE BEFORE RESUMPTION OF THE FULL GENEVA SESSIONS?

A. I THINK OUR POSITION ON THAT REALLY IS EFFECTED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT OF THE PARTIES. WE DO NOT HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR ONE ROUTE OR THE OTHER.

Q. YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF TIME TO CHECK WITH THE PARTIES NOW. IT'S BEEN A COUPLE OF MONTHS SINCE THE SECRETARY MADE THE PROPOSAL. HAVEN'T YOU HAD A SOUNDING FROM THEM AS TO WHAT THEY'D LIKE TO DO? THE RUSSIANS HAVE SAID

THEY'D LIKE TO GO BACK TO GENEVA. WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?

A. I REALLY CANNOT GO BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY.

Q. WELL, THE SECRETARY USED THE WORD "RECONSTITUTED," WHICH WOULD SUGGEST THAT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE CONSTITUTED

AS IT WAS BEFORE, THAT THERE WILL BE A DIFFERENT FRAMEWORK. IS THAT, INDEED, OQR CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF THAT WORD?

A. I AM NOT REALLY IN A POSITION TO GET INTO A DETAILED DEFINITION OF WHAT THE SECRETARY MEANT BY EACH WORD.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION ON THE STATEMENT BY THE SYRIAN INFORMATION MINISTER YESTERDAY IN WHICH HE SAYS HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RETURN OF MR. MURPHY?

A. I'M SURE MR. MURPHY WILL BE RETURNING TO DAMASCUS. I DON'T HAVE HIS DATE OF DEPARTURE.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHEN?

A. NO, I DONT. SOON.

Q. IS IT THE U.S. POSITION THAT COUNTRIES WITH THE AMOUNTS LISTED NEXT TO THEIR NAMES IN THE FOREIGN AID BILL, BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY, SHOULD GET EVERY DOLLAR THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED, NOTWITHSTANDING THE AMERICAN ASSESSMENT OF THE VOTE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ZIONISM EQUALS RACISM?

A. I THINK THAT HAS BEEN THE PURPORT OF BOTH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY AND THAT OF OTHER WITNESSES ON THE HILL IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE --

Q. THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE IN THE DOLLAR FIGURE?

A. -- THAT WE HAVE TAKEN MANY FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT IN PRESENTING THIS TO THE CONGRESS AND WE HOPE IT WILL BE ADOPTED.

Q. NO, BUT THE VOTE TOOK PLACE AFTER THE PRESENTATION, AND I'M ASKING WHETHER THE POSITION NOW IS THAT THE DOLLAR FIGURES STAND, NOTWITHSTANDING THE VOTE, DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR.

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING TO REGISTER ITS DISPLEASURE WITH THAT VOTE?

A. WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING SINCE WE LAST ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION BOTH HERE AND AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. THERE IS NO CONTEMPLATION OF ANY ACTION, IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO SPECULATE ON SPECIFIC ACTION. WE DID ANNOUNCE OUR WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTICIPATION IN ONE PARTICULAR PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

Q. WHAT WAS THAT, THE ILO?

A. NO, THE CONFERENCE ON DECADE AGAINST RACISM THAT THE UNGA IS SCHEDULED TO CONVENE IN GHANA IN THE NEXT YEAR.

Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES RECEIVED WORD, AS REPORTED ON NBC, THAT THE SYRIANS -- I KEEP LOSING OUT I KNOW -- THAT THE SYRIANS ARE GOING TO RENEW UNDOF?

A. WE CERTAINLY HOPE THEY WILL, BUT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION THAT THAT IS THEIR INTENTION.

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